

# Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills

## Final Report Bill 203, *Pension Protection Act*

Thirtieth Legislature  
Second Session  
July 2020



Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills

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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BILLS AND PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS**

July 2020

**To the Honourable Nathan Cooper  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
of the Province of Alberta**

I have the honour of submitting, on behalf of the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills, the Committee's final report containing recommendations on Bill 203, *Pension Protection Act*, for consideration by the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.

Sincerely,

*[original signed]*

Mike Ellis, MLA  
Chair, Standing Committee  
on Private Bills and  
Private Members' Public Bills



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**MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BILLS AND  
PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS**

**30th Legislature, Second Session**

Mike Ellis, MLA  
Chair  
Calgary-West (UCP)

Joseph R. Schow, MLA  
Deputy Chair  
Cardston-Siksika (UCP)

Michaela L. Glasgo, MLA  
Brooks-Medicine Hat (UCP)

Christian E. Nielsen, MLA  
Edmonton-Decore (NDP)

Nate S. Horner, MLA  
Drumheller-Stettler (UCP)

Jeremy P. Nixon, MLA  
Calgary-Klein (UCP)

Janis Irwin, MLA  
Edmonton-Highlands-Norwood (NDP)

Rakhi Pancholi, MLA  
Edmonton-Whitemud (NDP)

Nathan T. Neudorf, MLA  
Lethbridge-East (UCP)

Lori Sigurdson, MLA  
Edmonton-Riverview (NDP)

R.J. Sigurdson, MLA  
Highwood (UCP)

**Substitutions pursuant to Standing Order 56(2.1-2.4):**

Mickey K. Amery, MLA\*  
Calgary-Cross (UCP)

Matt Jones, MLA†  
Calgary-South East (UCP)

Shannon Phillips, MLA‡  
Lethbridge-West (NDP)

Jason Stephan, MLA§  
Red Deer-South (UCP)

**Members also in attendance:**

Christina Gray, MLA\*\*  
Edmonton-Mill Woods (NDP)

Jason Stephan, MLA††  
Red Deer-South (UCP)

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\* Substitute for Michaela Glasgo on June 23, 2020

† Substitute for Nathan Neudorf on June 23 and July 6, 2020

‡ Substitute for Lori Sigurdson on July 6, 2020

§ Substitute for Nate Horner on July 6, 2020

\*\* On June 23 and July 6, 2020

†† On June 23, 2020

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Bill 203, *Pension Protection Act*, was introduced and received first reading on June 8, 2020.

## 2.0 ORDER OF REFERENCE

Pursuant to Standing Order 74.11:

- (1) After a public Bill other than a Government Bill has been read a first time, the Bill stands referred to the Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills Committee.
- (2) The Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills Committee shall report back to the Assembly within 8 sitting days of the day on which the Bill was referred to the Committee.\*

## 3.0 COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

As part of the Committee's review of Bill 203 Committee meetings were held on June 23 and July 6, 2020. At the meeting on June 23, 2020, the sponsor of Bill 203, Christina Gray, Member for Edmonton-Mill Woods, made a presentation on the Bill to the Committee, and the Committee received a technical briefing from the Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance on the Bill. On July 6 five stakeholders made oral presentations to the Committee. The Committee received 3,463 written submissions about the Bill.

## 4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Pursuant to Standing Order 74.2 the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills recommends

**that Bill 203, *Pension Protection Act*, not proceed.**

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\* Due date suspended pursuant to Government Motion 10, agreed to on March 17, 2020.

## APPENDIX A: MINORITY REPORT

On July 6, 2020, the UCP government members of the Standing Committee on Private Bills and Private Members' Public Bills (the "Committee") voted against the recommendation that Bill 203, *Pension Protection Act, 2020*, proceed. They voted against it proceeding despite the historic level of submissions received by the Committee directly from members of the public that the Bill should proceed to the Assembly for debate. The NDP Caucus members of the Committee have submitted this minority report to urge the Legislative Assembly to reject the recommendation of the Committee that Bill 203 not proceed.

Of the more than 3400 written submissions made to the Committee within one week - almost completely from individual private citizens - not a single submission opposed either the content of Bill 203 or it proceeding to the Assembly for debate. In addition to the written submissions directly to the Committee itself, the Committee heard evidence that over 50,000 emails have been sent to MLAs throughout the province in opposition to the government's action to make unilateral changes without consultation to public sector pensions through Bill 22. Bill 203 was brought forward as a response to these heavy-handed changes in Bill 22.

Committee members were also made aware of the more than 30,000 petition signatories and emails that the NDP Caucus members had received on the issues of pension management and opposition to Alberta leaving CPP.

To recap - the committee received evidence that over 73,000 communications had been received by MLAs and the committee in support of Bill 203.

Yet, the UCP members of the Committee - as they have consistently done since the Committee's mandate was expanded to include the review of all Private Member Bills - voted against a recommendation that Bill 203 proceed to the Assembly for debate by all members. UCP members of the Committee have voted the same way on every Private Member's Bill introduced by an Opposition member and know full well that with their majority in the Assembly, this is ultimately a decision to block any Private Member's Bill from the Opposition being debated in the Assembly.

Equally concerning to democracy, and to Albertans, is that the UCP members of the Committee voted down a motion to make the written submissions received by the Committee public. Once again, the UCP is seeking to silence the voices of Albertans who are expressing their outrage and opposition to the actions of their government.



The NDP members of the Committee do not agree with the recommendation of the Committee's report on Bill 203 and we stand by our original motion that Bill 203 proceed for debate into the Assembly.

Members of the Assembly have an opportunity to set this right and vote against concurrence with the report of the Committee. The more than 73,000 Albertans who have reached out on this issue, and the more than 300,000 whose lives are directly impacted by this legislation deserve a fulsome debate on this issue.

#### NDP Committee Members

Janis Irwin

Chris Nielsen

Rakhi Pancholi

Lori Sigurdson

## APPENDIX B: LIST OF ORAL PRESENTERS

Organization	Name
Ministry of Treasury Board and Finance	Ms Athana Mentzelopoulos, Deputy Minister
Private Citizen	Mr. Mac Van Wielingen
Alberta Federation of Labour	Mr. Gil McGowan, President
Private Citizen	Mr. Greg Meeker
Private Citizen	Mr. Justin Huseby



